

## **Red Kites Llandeilo to Brecon**

### **Welsh Kite Trust 2015**

#### **Objectives**

The objective of monitoring the Red Kites in this area is to ascertain the size of the population on an annual basis. The population size is compared to that the previous year to ascertain an expansion or contraction. An expansion involves identifying new pairs and a contraction identifying missing pairs. The outcome of each breeding attempt in terms of the number of young produced is included in an assembly of data in respect of each so that an ongoing assessment of the total population can be made year on year and trends identified.

#### **Area covered**

The area of Wales covered by this study lies between Brecon, Powys in the east and Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire in the West. It is bounded on the North by the A40 Trunk Road between Brecon and Llandeilo and on the South by the mountain and moorland of the Brecon Beacons in the East and the Black Mountain in the West. In addition the area comprised in the Eppynt Valleys is also covered. This extends from Llandovery and the A483 Bulth Wells Road in the West to Brecon and the B4520 Upper Chapel Road in the East and on the North by the military ranges of the Eppynt Uplands. Two 10km squares are included in the area South of the A40, SN72 and SN92. These are distinguished by the goal of finding every nest in both squares by checking every possible site, whether historic, traditional, recent or potential. In the wider area outside the 10km squares and in the Eppynt Valleys an attempt is made to check all nests from the previous year and recent years, potential areas of woodland and to follow up any leads or information. SN72 includes a Red Kite Feeding Station since 2003. SN92 extends slightly over the A40 boundary, but nowhere significantly.

#### **Method**

Starting as early as possible in the Season priority is given to checking all the Occupied Sites and Nest Sites from the immediately preceding Season by watching at a distance using bins or scope, firstly in both 10km squares then in the wider area and Eppynt. Whether or not a conclusion can be reached on all these Sites then all the nest sites from earlier years, then historic breeding sites can be checked including those going back to the 1800's and those listed in Dawson .

#### **Results**

Information on each Occupied Site is then included in a data assembly following the information required by the Nest Record Cards published by the British Trust for Ornithology. The number of young reared is then used to calculate the average young per Occupied Site and also the young per successful nest. These figures can then be used for comparison between years, between different areas in Wales and in England, between 10km squares, between pre- and post- Feeding Stations and pre- and post- the Fallen Stock Scheme.

## **2015 Results**

In the 2015 Season 113 Occupied Sites were found and 107 pairs laid eggs. The total number of young was 86. This figure is subject to the usual cautions that you may not always be able to see all the young in a nest and that one or more young may have already fledged. The productivity figures resulting from this are 0.80 per nesting pair and 1.21 per successful nest. The figures when broken down into areas are as follows:

Area	Nesting Pairs	Successful NN	Young	Young per Nest	Y per successful N
SN72	42	29	34	0.81	1.17
SN92	13	9	13	0.1	1.44
Wof70	4	4	5	1.25	1.25
Eof70	32	22	27	0.84	1.22
EandE	16	7	7	0.44	1.0

## **Comparisons**

The comparable 2014 figures are as follows:

SN72	26	19	24	0.92	1.26
SN92	10	7	9	0.9	1.28
Wof70E	3	1	1	0.3	1.00
Eof70	25	15	20	0.8	1.33
EandE	11	6	7	0.63	1.16

It is hoped to make the comparisons to be drawn from the above Results with previous years the subject of future reports.